

MARCH 17, 2022, MEETING MINUTES REGISTRY OF ELECTION FINANCE

The Registry of Election Finance (“the Registry” or “the Board”) of the Bureau of Ethics and Campaign Finance (“the Bureau”) met at 10:00 AM on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at the W.R. Snodgrass Tower, 312 Rosa L. Parks Ave., Nashville, in the Multimedia Room of the 3rd Floor Conference Center.

Presiding over the meeting was Chairwoman Paige Burcham-Dennis. Attending the meeting were Board Members Tom Lawless, Tom Morton, Paz Haynes, and David Golden. A physical quorum of the members present at the meeting was confirmed. (Member Haynes was late to the meeting, arriving at 10:36 AM). Executive Director Bill Young, Assistant Director Lance Frizzell, General Counsel Lauren Topping, Chief of Staff Janet Williams, and Director of Audit Jay Moeck also attended the meeting. The meeting was open to the public. This meeting was recorded via video and audio recording.

Member Golden moved to suspend the rules to allow two members of the public to participate by telephone. Member Lawless seconded the motion, which was approved by a voice vote.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Member Lawless moved to approve both the meeting minutes of the Registry’s previous January 13, 2022, meeting and the meeting minutes of the Registry’s previous March 2, 2022, special meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Member Golden and unanimously approved by voice vote (4-0).

Referral

As a matter of professional privilege, Member Lawless requested that he be allowed to make a motion concerning a matter not on the Registry’s stated agenda. After leave from the Chair, Member Lawless moved to direct that the Registry’s staff refer all the circumstances surrounding the audit of the Faith Family Freedom Fund political campaign committee and all statements, or materials submitted by, Representative Glen Casada regarding that committee to the Williamson County District Attorney’s Office (21st Judicial District) for review by law enforcement for any possible criminal violations, and to provide such information as is necessary for this review to be completed. Member Lawless further moved that Registry staff be directed to supply any and all support and evidence requested by the 21st Judicial District Attorney’s Office. Member Golden seconded the

motion. After additional discussion, the motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote (4-0).

Update on Pending Ethics/Campaign Finance Legislation before the Tennessee General Assembly

Assistant Director Frizzell presented the members of the Board with a summary of bills currently before the General Assembly which may impact the Bureau in some manner. No questions were posed. No action was required or taken.

Review of Audit

Karl Dean: After a short summary of the basis and findings of the audit by Registry staff, Member Lawless moved to approve and accept the audit as presented. Member Morton seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved (4-0). No further action was taken.

Reconsiderations

Shannon Duncan, Case No. 21-61: Although Ms. Duncan had previously requested special permission to call into the meeting, Ms. Duncan was not on the line and did not participate in the meeting. After a short discussion, Member Morton moved to reconsider the civil penalties previously assessed. Member Golden seconded this motion, which was unanimously approved. Member Morton moved to reduce the assessed civil penalty from \$5,000 to \$250. Member Golden seconded this motion. The motion was unanimously approved (4-0).

Jonathan Hall, Case No. C21-04: As the Board began consideration of this matter, Mr. Hall was not present at the meeting. After some discussion, Member Lawless moved to deny the request for reconsideration. Member Golden seconded the motion. Prior to the vote on this motion, Mr. Hall entered the meeting, and the motion was suspended. Mr. Hall made a statement to the Board, indicating that he was actively working with the Davidson County Election Commission to file all missing reports and to correct all deficiencies. After additional discussion, Member Lawless moved to defer further consideration of his motion and this matter to the Registry's next meeting to allow Mr. Hall additional time to complete all required corrections and for the Registry's staff to confirm with both the Davidson County Election Commission and the Davidson County District Attorney's Office that these entities were satisfied with Mr. Hall's corrective actions. The motion was seconded and approved. This matter will be deferred for further consideration until the Registry's next scheduled meeting (May 18, 2022). (*Member Haynes arrived*

during the discussion of this matter and abstained from all discussion and voting on this matter due to a potential conflict of interest.)

Brandon Weise, Case No. 20-59, Case No. 21-36, Case No. 21-51: Director Young and Counsel Topping provided the members of the Registry with all relevant information regarding the procedural posture of these three matters and Mr. Weise's communications with staff. After some discussion, Member Morton moved to reconsider the civil penalty assessed in Case No. 20-59. Member Golden seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Member Morton then moved to reduce the civil penalty assessed in Case No. 20-59 from \$10,000 to \$250. Member Haynes seconded the motion. After additional discussion, the motion was amended to reduce the civil penalty assessed in this matter from \$10,000 to \$500. The amendment was accepted and seconded. The motion was approved by roll call vote (5-0). Further consideration of Case Nos. 21-36 and 21-51 was deferred to the Registry's next scheduled meeting (May 18, 2022).

Lynette P. Williams, Case No. 21-23: Dr. Lynette Williams participated in the meeting via telephone and made a statement to the Registry. After a short discussion, Member Golden moved to reconsider this matter. Member Lawless seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Member Lawless moved to reduce the assessed civil penalty from \$10,000 to \$175. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Conservation Action PAC, Case No. 21-66: Mr. Steward Clifton and Michelle Haynes personally appeared before the Registry and presented a short statement to the members. After a short discussion, Member Lawless moved to reconsider this matter. Member Golden seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Member Lawless moved to reduce the assessed civil penalty from \$1,000 to \$175. Member Golden seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Tennessee United, Case No. 21-69: Mr. James Miller appeared before the Registry and presented a short statement to the members. After discussion, Member Golden moved to reconsider this matter. Member Lawless seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. Member Lawless moved to reduce the assessed civil penalty from \$5,000 to \$0. Member Haynes seconded the motion. After additional discussion, the motion was approved by roll call vote (4-1, Member Morton opposed).

We Are Ready Nashville PAC, Case No. 21-70: Although representatives for the organization had previously requested to personally appear at the Registry's meeting, no representative was present during the meeting on behalf of the organization. After a short discussion, Member Golden moved to reconsider this matter. Member Haynes seconded

the motion, which was approved by voice vote. After additional discussion, Member Golden moved to reduce the assessed civil penalty from \$10,000 to \$1,000. Member Haynes seconded the motion, however, the motion failed by roll call vote (2-3). Member Morton then moved to reduce the assessed civil penalty from \$10,000 to \$5,000. Member Lawless seconded the motion, however, the motion failed by roll call vote (3-2). Member Lawless then moved to reduce the assessed civil penalty from \$10,000 to \$4,500. Member Morton seconded the motion. After additional discussion, Member Haynes proposed to amend the motion to reduce the assessed civil penalty from \$10,000 to \$3,500. The friendly amendment was accepted and seconded. The motion, as amended, was approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Consideration of Civil Penalty Order

Scott McCormick, Case No. 22-01: Director Young summarized the procedural posture of this matter. Mr. Moeck summarized the audit procedures followed in this case and the steps taken thus far to review the late filed documents provided to the Registry's Staff ahead of this meeting. Mr. Moeck also advised as to the current state of the corrective actions undertaken in regard to this matter by Mr. McCormick to date. After additional discussion, further consideration of this matter was deferred until the Registry's next meeting.

Persons Subject to Possible Issuance of Show Cause Notice

Member Morton moved to take the following actions in each of the following matters:

Danny Coleman (Maury County)	<i>Take No Action</i>
Jane George	<i>Take No Action</i>
Ovi Kabir	<i>Issue Show Cause Notice</i>
Melody Shekari	<i>Take No Action</i>
Reenvision Memphis	<i>Take No Action</i>

Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Rescind

Lynnette P. Williams, Case No. 21-52: Member Morton moved to reconsider and rescind the civil penalty previously assessed in this matter. Member Lawless seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by roll call vote (5-0).

Set date of Registry Board's next meeting

After a brief discussion, the Registry's next meeting was set to be scheduled for May 18, 2022, at 10:00 AM. The location of the meeting will be determined based on conference room availability.

Other Business

None.

Executive Session

None.

Member Lawless moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Haynes seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved by voice vote.